

REMARKS

Claims 13 to 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 13 to 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 13 recites, “a clutch assembly comprising:
a clutch including a clutch lining having a springiness;
a pressure plate configured to engage the clutch, the pressure plate being axially moveable against a force of the springiness of the lining;
a clutch-release system;
a release bearing;
a lever plate supported in a peripheral region and transmitting with leverage a release force to the pressure plate, the release force being applied by the clutch-release system to the release bearing; and
a clutch actuator having a linear compensating spring and exerting an actuating force on the release bearing, the actuating force being amplified by a force of the linear compensating spring,

wherein a spring force acts on the lever plate in a direction of the force of the springiness of the lining, the spring force being within an order of magnitude of the force of the linear compensating spring.”

The Office Action states that the figures provided by the applicant do not support the new claim language. However, this appears to be a simple misunderstanding. The support is found in both Figure 5 and Figure 6, and the description of [0031]. Line I in both Figures 5 and 6 is actuating force F_s and Line III is the force of the linear compensating spring F_{ko} . (See original claim 1). As shown by Figure 6, in comparison to Figure 5, F_s moves up, “this change being caused by spring force F_{TF} of lever plate 8,” as stated in claim 13 “wherein a spring force acts on the lever plate in a direction of the force of the springiness of the lining,

[588.1036]

the spring force being within an order of magnitude of the force of the linear compensating spring.” The actuating force F_s shown in Figure 6 thus is directly affected by spring force F_{TF} as shown. See [0031]: “Thus, the adaptation of spring force F_{TF} (compare Figure 1) to force F_{KO} of linear compensating spring effect positive actuating forces F_s of clutch actuator 13 (compare Figure 2).”

The applicant agrees that Line I in the figures is the actuating force and not the spring force. However, the actuating force and the spring force are related to one another and this is shown by comparing Figure 5 to Figure 6 as described in [0031].

It is respectfully submitted that Figure 5, Figure 6 and [0031] provide proper support for the new claim language. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 13 and its dependent claims 14 to 23 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,

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